

## Hot Weather Pet Safety Tips

Columbus, Ohio--- June 28, 2006 --- Now that summer's finally here, remember to keep your pet safe by following these tips from the Franklin County Dog Shelter.

- **Don't take your pets to crowded summer events**
  - Asphalt and concrete get very hot and can burn your pet's paws. If it's too hot for you to walk barefoot on the pavement, then it's too hot for your pet!
  - Dogs and cats can't perspire like we do and can only cool off by panting and by dispelling heat through the pads of their feet.
- **Provide plenty of water and shade for your pets**
  - Carry a portable water bowl for your pet when you're away from home.
  - Fill a shallow kiddie pool with water for your dog to play in on hot days.
- **Pets can get sunburned, too**
  - Pets with light colored fur may need sunscreen on their ears and noses to prevent skin cancer.
- **Limit exercise to early morning or evening hours**
  - Walk your dog during the cooler morning and evening hours.
  - This is especially if your dog is a puppy, a senior dog or a breed with a very short nose like a Bulldog, Boxer or Pekingese or a breed with very thick fur.
- **Never, ever, ever leave your pet in a parked car!**
  - The inside of your car can reach 120° in a matter of minutes causing heat stroke, brain damage, and even death!

"Pet owners just need to remember to use common sense," says Lisa Wahoff, Director of Franklin County Animal Care and Control. "We get several calls each week about dogs left in vehicles, and often by the time help arrives it's too late to save the dog. It's tragic, especially when it's so easy to prevent." Wahoff urges pet owners to plan ahead so that everyone can enjoy the summer safely.

Franklin County Dog Shelter is the largest county shelter in Ohio. Last year the shelter took in more than 12,000 lost and unwanted dogs and puppies.